

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 03255 121102Z

53

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 OES-03 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 NSC-05

INR-07 /051 W

----- 047770

R 121021Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8382

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3255

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, TH

SUBJ: PETROLEUM PRICE FREEZE

REF: A) BANGKOK 2574, B) BANGKOK 2790

1. ESSO REP (COHEN) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AGREEMENT WHICH OIL COMPANIES THOUGHT THEY HAD WITH GOVERNMENT FELL APART YESTERDAY FEB 11) DURING MEETING WITH OIL POLICY COMMITTEE (OPC). GOVERNMENT HAD PRESENTED PLAN, APPARENTLY ALONG LINES DESCRIBED REFTEL (B), WHICH MOST COMPANIES WOULD WELCOME, EVEN THOUGH ONLY TEMPORARY SOLUTION. ONE COMPANY, HOWEVER, THAILAND OIL REFINERY CO. (TORC), COULD NOT ACCEPT IT. TORC, ACCORDING COHEN, HAD VALID REASONS, AS ITS SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS. IN ANY EVENT, THE MEETING ENDED RATHER ACRIMONIOUSLY, WITH BITTER WORDS HAVING BEEN EXCHANGED, INCLUDING AMONG SOME OF THE THREE CABINET MINISTERS WHO WERE PRESENT. MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR WERE AT ODDS. ACCORDING COHEN, MINISTER PRAMARN WANTS TO RESIGN AS OPC CHAIRMAN, BUT HIS PARTY WON'T LET HIM.

2. MATTER IS NOW BACK IN FINANCE MINISTER BUNCHU'S LAP, AND HE WAS SUPPOSED TO TRY TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER PROPOSAL WITHIN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS. ESSO, CALTEX AND SHELL HAVE AGREED TO MAKE NO MOVES THROUGH END OF THIS WEEK; COHEN HAS AN APPOINTMENT AT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY FOR MONDAY MORNING IN EVENT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION NOT REACHED BY THEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 03255 121102Z

3. COHEN SAID THAT ESSO AND SHELL ARE NOT TOO DISCOURAGED ABOUT

PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION, BUT THAT CALTEX IS ABOUT AT THE END
OF ITS ROPE. COHEN FEELS THAT AT LEAST THE GOVERNMENT HAS
BEEN WORKING HARD, AND IS OBVIOUSLY CONTINUING TO DO SO, IN
TRYING TO FIND A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE, AND IT DOES SEEM TO
UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.

WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, AGREEMENTS, PRICES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO03255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760054-0119
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760257/aaaabxok.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BANGKOK 2574, 76 BANGKOK 2790
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM PRICE FREEZE
TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, TH, ESSO, CALTEX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006